

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the November 15, 2004 Office Action. Claims 1 to 8 are pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 5 being independent. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal is being filed concurrently herewith. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,481,434 (Janutka). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to one feature of the invention as recited by Claims 1 and 5, the regenerative means is connected between the gate terminal and a high potential side of the direct current power source.

The Office Action concedes that Janutka does not disclose the foregoing feature. Yet, the Office Action states that the invention would nevertheless have been obvious. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

It is Applicant's understanding that the circuit disclosed in Janutka would not function properly if modified as shown in the diagram set forth at page 5 of the Office Action. In particular, the FET could not be turned off since a high potential voltage would always be applied to the FET gate. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed modification would render Janutka unsatisfactory for its intended purpose of facilitating faster FET turn-off, and as such, that there is no motivation or suggestion to make the proposed modification. See MPEP § 2143.01.

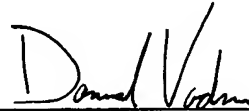
The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each

dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Damond E. Vadnais", is written over a horizontal line.

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